

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 18, 1996

Published Since 1877

## Annual Christmas ministry —

## Simpson Assoc. produces its own version of "Toy Story"

By Tim Nicholas

Besides the popular version on the motion picture screen, there's another "toy story" that takes place every Christmas in Simpson County.

For the past 11 years, Baptists in that county have sponsored a project that this past Christmas delivered toys and New Testaments to 582 children in 219 homes.

Volunteers begin looking in the spring of each year for bargain toys on sale in the department stores. Toy weapons are the only "no-no."

Crisis Ministry Coordinator Cille Luper, who directs the toy ministry, says donations

come from all over the county.

The Magee Diners' Club, a group of businessmen, donated 150 basketballs, soccer balls, and footballs in addition to 150 transistor radios and watches.

WalMart donated a portion of its Saturday-after-Thanksgiving sales.

The employees of People's Bank donated toys instead of exchanging gifts among themselves. Inland Container donated boxes.

Director of Missions Farris Smith said this was one of the outstanding ways that churches and secular businesses can get



**Toy Ministry** volunteers Amber Coleman, 13, of Athens Church; Tasha Benton, 16, of New Life Church; and Cille Luper, crisis ministry coordinator for Simpson Association, show typical gifts given in the toy ministry.



On Dec. 19, cars lined up outside the Simpson Association office on Highway 49 to receive boxes of Christmas toys. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

involved and work together.

In addition, "black and white churches are working together as are several denominations," said Smith.

This ministry is unbudgeted in the association. "The resources seem to flow more and more every year," said Smith. "This creates good will among all people of Simpson County and the Lord enables us to do it."

Parents are referred to the association by other agencies, such as the fire department and schools.

No questions are asked concerning need — need is assumed.

The parents are given a letter which they later exchange for the toys.

Youths of the association sort the toys into family boxes. On Dec. 19, the parents

go to the associational office on Highway 49 to receive the boxes.

Each family receives a box of unwrapped toys — four for each child. Three of the toys are new and one is in good used condition.

In addition each family receives a marked New Testament.

A note from Farris Smith in each Bible explains: "We give because Christ has given to us. We share because Christ has shared with us. The churches of the Simpson County Baptist Association, as well as other Christian groups and individuals who have provided these toys, invite you to know and experience the 'Savior who is Christ the Lord.'"

**Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.**

### Choosing sides

Confused about whose side you're on in the Balkans — Bosnians, Serbs, or Croats? Southern Baptist missionaries are working on all sides of the conflict, and they say this is not the time for Christians to be choosing sides. "Our perspective is that there are no good guys or bad guys in this war. All sides are guilty and all sides have suffered tremendously. Christ offers hope and we feel that he has called us here to share that hope," said missionary Randy Bell, who lives in Belgrade with his wife Joan. Baptists from all across the old republic of Yugoslavia once worked under a single union, but they were forced apart by the conflict and new borders drawn by politicians who wouldn't allow even telephone service between their countries. Missionary Larry Cox has traveled extensively in Croatia. "Atrocities have been committed by all sides, and they're all guilty in a sense. This is basically a religious war," he said. The missionaries agree that Southern Baptists cannot afford to take sides, because Southern Baptists are working in many places throughout the region, on all sides of the war.

### God rules

David Russell has the devil to thank for an increase of 1100% in his Bible distribution ministry. Russell, pastor of Restoration Church and a "street preacher" for the past five years in Burlington, Vt., said he gave away perhaps 100 Bibles before a local chapter of the Knights of Lucifer decided to take him on. As he was setting up his literature table across from a Woolworth's store in Burlington, 35 black-clad, tattooed Satanists encircled him and his volunteers and began to chant "Satan rules," with hard rock music screaming full blast from their boom boxes. Such conduct might be enough to demoralize the average person, but Russell continued his ministry undeterred in spite of the obstacles thrown at him by the Satanists, and he has seen his Bible giveaway zoom to 1,200 since the Knights began their harassment. In addition to complete Bibles, he has given away at least 224 New Testaments and 20,000 witnessing tracts. "I can hardly believe what God has done. We have seen a total of nine decisions for Christ and many visitors coming to our church," he said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Nurses and nursing students are invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship, where a health care recruitment consultant from the Foreign Mission Board will be on hand to help organize the group.

#### 20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Hospital trustees, in anticipation of the opening next week of the new 600-bed, \$35,000,000 medical complex on State Street in Jackson, vote to change the name of the facility to Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

#### 50 years ago

Baptist layman Martin M. Miller, state representative from Edinburg, introduces a bill in the Mississippi Legislature that would criminalize payment of the state's "black market" liquor tax as evidence of violation of prohibition laws.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Giving is always in season

A week seldom passes in which most of us do not receive a plea for financial help.

It may be an urgent cry which could help save our retirement, keep Social Security healthy, or make our government more conservative or liberal.

Religious broadcasters, institutions, patriotic groups, and conservation teams offer us an opportunity to save the spotted owl, the wild-African snail-darter, and other entities we never heard about before.

There are shysters and scams everywhere seeking to separate man from his money.

In the Operation Desert Shield build-up before the Gulf War there were pleas for funds to send mail, candy, etc., to our soldiers.

Telemarketers are already soliciting funds for U.S. troops in Bosnia.

We are warned that Internet fraud could easily become a bigger problem than phone fraud.

Most of these requests a person

will "file away" but in others you maintain a nagging interest for a few days. Occasionally you send a small check. Stories circulate of people who really sacrifice to support a worthy cause.

Like a gardenia in the desert, there is Oceola McCarty, who gave \$100,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi to endow a scholarship for needy students — money she had scrimped and saved from 75 years of taking in laundry.

There are also many "rainy day" savers who do not receive their allotted number of rainy days and thus end up with substantial savings. They wonder what is best. The children don't necessarily need it. Where would it do the most good?

There is the church which has fed and nourished you week by week. The college which opened new avenues of service for you is ever in need. There are the mission boards, foundations, children's care groups, prison ministries, relief

organizations, and the list could go on.

Your "saw-mill" earned dollars can be given to good causes as quickly as you can write the checks. Will you feel good about it later? Ten years from now, will you be glad you did?

Then there are endowments, scholarship funds, and trusts where only the interest is used to aid the cause.

Worthy organizations are helping the blind — Orbis International says there are 42 million blind people in the world.

Some groups are trying to get children out of sweat shops, child prostitution, or extreme poverty.

Mercy ships ply the seas to help victims of earthquakes, typhoons, and other disasters.

Closer to home there are the Baddour Center in Senatobia and the Mustard Seed in Jackson which help the mentally handicapped; the Magnolia Speech School in Jackson helps children from the world of silence learn to speak.

Before giving, talk it over with your pastor, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, financial managers, or a close friend.

Remember Jesus said, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Matt. 9:13).

Perhaps the statement which disturbs us most is: "But whosoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

Be assured you will have ample opportunity to distribute your "world's goods" in the coming year. Don't overlook the personal touch — the actual hands-on deed — or giving bread to a brother in need. Giving inherently carries a blessing for the generous soul.

January is "Make Your Will" month. It is important to see that your money goes on giving.



Bear Creek Church, Attala County, circa 1905.

## THE FRAGMENTS

## The tentacles of history

History of churches is interesting and should be preserved. The long tentacles reach out to touch lives of hundreds of people.

Such is the history of Bear Creek Church near McCool in Attala County. It was organized in 1851 and has been the religious training ground for hundreds of people.

One of the earlier pastors was W.H.H. Fancher. As a Confederate soldier, he was captured in 1864 by Yankee troops and sent to Ohio. He felt called to preach while a prisoner and promised the Lord he would preach, "if I reach home."

Since then there have been other preachers in the state who bore the name Fancher.

I first met James Fancher at Mississippi College in 1948. James pastored churches from Aberdeen to Monticello and found time to be a vocational evangelist for 12 years.

He presently serves as interim director for the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board's Evangelism Department. He showed me an old book entitled **Ten Years in Texas**, by J.B. Gambrell, the first

editor of **The Baptist Record**. After starting this paper, Gambrell went to Texas where he started **The Baptist Standard**. (Gambrell was known for his "wise sayings" such as, "Often a little tugboat makes more noise than a great steel liner.") James Fancher's copy of **Ten Years** had belonged to W.H.H. Fancher and had his name on the fly leaf.

Much of the information on the elder Fancher can be found in L.S. Foster's book, **Mississippi Baptist Preachers**, which was published in 1895. Such are the long tentacles of history that they reach out to touch all of us. — GH

W.H.H. Fancher

— GH

**A WILL TO WIN**

**BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

**HAVING A PROPERLY DRAWN WILL IS A WIN/WIN SITUATION!**

## January is "Make Your Will" month

By Hal Fisher

As Christians we are to be good stewards of the assets entrusted to each of us by God. This stewardship of assets includes our time, talents, and financial resources.

We also know we are accountable for every action, even every word spoken while on earth.

What will happen to the financial assets God has entrusted to you when you die?

A will allows you the opportunity to place the Lord's assets into the hands of another Christian steward at your death. Thus, you

can plan and take the necessary steps to make sure you provide for your family.

A will can also continue your lifetime support of church and other charitable causes, like our Baptist colleges, the Children's Village, and the Cooperative Program, to name just a few.

A will can make a difference in God's work around the world.

A will is vital to all persons over the age of 18. For the married couple with young children, the will provides the opportunity to

name a guardian for children in the event both parents die.

We do not know when we will die; a brief glance in the daily newspaper reveals that death comes to people of all ages.

The great thing about a will is it is written to meet your needs today and can easily be changed later as your needs and circumstances change.

A will is amended by preparing a codicil or by re-writing it entirely. In Mississippi a will can be (See **WILL** on page 4)

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## New assistant pastor —

# First Church, Atlanta, selects Reighard in unanimous vote

ATLANTA (BP) — First Church of Atlanta members voted unanimously Jan. 14 to call Dwight "Ike" Reighard as senior associate pastor.

Reighard will be the primary preacher for First Church's northeast Atlanta site, where leaders hope to bring the two worship groups together in one site. Senior pastor Charles Stanley continues to preach to those attending the Mid-

town location, which is for sale.

Following the vote, Reighard's introduction to the congregation, and a standing ovation, he said, "I haven't been this nervous since I ran for fifth-grade class president." He called the vote a confirmation of God's calling in his life.

Reighard has served since 1978 as pastor of New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga. That church has grown to more than 5,000 members.

Before the vote, Stanley called Reighard "the right man for this position." Stanley praised Reighard as a godly man, a good preacher, a pastor respected by his peers, and as an inerrantist in his views on the Bible.

Reighard will fill the pulpit vacated by Stanley's son, Andy, who resigned in the wake of divorce proceedings between his parents. The divorce suit, filed by

his mother, Anna, is scheduled for a court date later this month. Charles Stanley's attorneys have asked for a jury trial. Stanley's lead counsel is a state representative, and the court date could be delayed until after the 1996 legislative session.

Members don't usually vote on assistant ministers, but Stanley said, "We wanted to give everybody in both locations the opportunity to express their opinion."

Stanley told the congregation last year he would resign if the divorce becomes final, but rebuffed speculation that Reighard's call was to succeed him as senior pastor. Stanley said Sunday night he has no current plans to resign. "You have my word in the presence of God."

Using Proverbs 3:5, 6 as his theme, Reighard said he's often

asked himself why he would leave New Hope Baptist Church, where he said he is happy and comfortable. "When I was leaning to my own understanding, I wouldn't," he said.

"The choice for me is not between First Church and New Hope," he said. "The choice is between being in the center of God's will and being on the parameter of God's will." He added he's looking forward to working with Stanley, whom he called "my wife's favorite preacher."

The service concluded with members praying for their church to rekindle its vision of touching the whole world for God. Stanley also prayed that the two congregation be reunited and the Midtown property would sell. The church has operated two locations since a real estate deal to sell the Midtown property fell through.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# The Baptist Record

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## Baptist leaders to speak at Evangelism Conference

Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry is among the state and national Southern Baptist leaders who will address the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 29-30 at Colonial Heights Church in Jackson.

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, will speak at the close of the Jan. 29 afternoon session. His first pastorate after graduating from New Orleans Seminary was Hollywood Church near Sledge in the Mississippi Delta.

Mississippians on the program include vocational evangelist

Gary Bowlin of Brandon; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); James P. Fancher, interim director of the MBCB Evangelism Department; and Stan Fornea, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Ken Alford, pastor of Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Fla., and former pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will preach at the close of the Jan. 30 morning session.

Other speakers include:

— Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor of

First Church, Springdale, Ark., and chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville.

— John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, Texas.

— Rodney Gage, evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas.

— Richard Harris, director of the Personal Evangelism Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

— Peyton Moore, executive director of the Golden Triangle Association in Beaumont, Texas.

— Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Church in Houston, Texas.

— Jay Strack, evangelist from Orlando.

Musicians on the conference program include Mississippi natives James N. Fancher, soloist from Oklahoma City, and Buster Pray, minister of music at First Church, Springdale, Ark. Jenni Till of Dallas will also be a featured soloist.

Irene Martin of Forest will serve as pianist. Dot Pray, keyboard consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department, will serve as organist.

J. Garland McKee of Clinton, who retired as MBCB evangelism director at the end of 1995, will host the conference.

A pair of related meetings have also been scheduled during the evangelism conference.

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association

will gather in the Colonial Heights Church fellowship hall for a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 30. Cost is \$5 per person.

Reservations for the luncheon must be made by Jan. 25 with Elaine Smith of the MBCB Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

The Bivocational Ministers Fellowship will hold a dinner on Jan. 30 from 5 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 4904 Interstate 55 North in Jackson. The meal is compliments of the MBCB Church Administration/Pas-

toral Ministries (CAPM) Department, and no pre-registration is necessary.

For information on the dinner, contact Matt Buckles in the CAPM Department at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

For information on the evangelism conference, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department at one of the two MBCB telephone numbers listed above.

### 1996 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference

Colonial Heights Baptist Church  
5708 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi

#### Monday, Jan. 29

##### 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session

Prayer  
Welcome  
Music  
Gary Bowlin  
Music  
James Fancher  
Music  
Stan Fornea  
Music  
Jim Henry

##### 6:30 p.m. Evening Session

Prayer  
Music  
Ronnie W. Floyd  
Music  
Joe Ratliff  
Music  
Rodney Gage

#### Tuesday, Jan. 30

##### 9 a.m. Morning Session

Prayer  
Music  
Richard Harris  
Music  
Peyton Moore

#### Tuesday morning session (cont.)

Music  
Rodney Gage  
Music  
Ken Alford

##### 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session

Prayer  
Music  
Bill Causey  
Music  
Joe Bisagno  
Music  
Ken Alford  
Music  
Jay Strack

##### 6:30 p.m. Evening Session

Prayer  
Music  
Joe Ratliff  
Music  
Jay Strack  
Music  
John Bisagno

MBCB Evangelism Department:  
(601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651

Colonial Heights Baptist Church  
(601) 956-5000



Henry



Bowlin



Causey



J.P. Fancher



Fornea



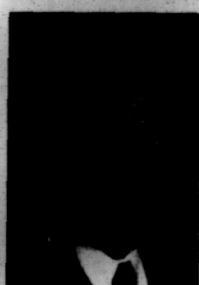
Alford



Floyd



Bisagno



Gage



Harris



Moore



Ratliff



Strack



J.N. Fancher



B. Pray



Till



Martin



D. Pray





**Mississippi students** who received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises are pictured with President Landrum P. Leavell (center). The doctoral graduates (left to right) and their degrees are: Kevin Hand, Denham Springs, La., pastor of First Church, Magee, doctor of philosophy; Randy Rinehart, Memphis, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany, doctor of ministry; Mark Long, Long Beach, pastor of Perkinson Church, Perkinson, doctor of philosophy; Jeff Clark, Hamilton, Ala., associate pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, doctor of philosophy; Christopher Jenkins, Meridian, organist for First Church, New Orleans, La., doctor of musical arts; and Gregory McBride, Gulfport, pastor of Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian, doctor of philosophy with a specialization in Old Testament/Hebrew.

## New Orleans Seminary awards degrees to Mississippi students

In addition to the doctoral graduates shown in the photo above, several students with Mississippi ties received other degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises held on Dec. 15.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were: Ronald Eugene Heimback Jr., Hernando, minister of education and youth at Emmanuel Church, Grenada; William Christian Atkinson, Meridian, pastor of Arrowood Church, Meridian; Darryl Glynn Robinson, Hattiesburg; David Michael Barns, Mobile, Ala., pastor of Cane Brake Church, Lottie, La.; Roderick Steven King, Alexander City, Ala., pastor of First Church, Lumberton; Hugh P. Boswell III, Tupelo, ministerial assistant at First Church, Chalmette, La.; Scott A. Griffith, Tallahassee, Ala.; Jarod

Kendal South, Mathiston.

Receiving the master of arts degrees were: Jean Evelyn Herington, Laurel; Kevin W. Boles, Clinton, minister of music and youth at Northside Church, Denham Springs, La.; Patricia J. Babb, Plantersville; and Michael A. Newman, Thomaston, Ga., minister of youth at Pine Grove Church, Picayune, and Walter Alan Loving Jr., Hattiesburg, youth minister at First Church, Hattiesburg.

Receiving other degrees were Michael Pickens, Newton, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Newton, associate of Christian education; Lewis C. (L.C.) Drawdy Jr., Biloxi, bachelor in general studies; and Daniel H. Wilson, Brewton, Ala., minister of education at Victory Church, New Orleans, bachelor of general studies.

## WILL

From page 2

written entirely in your handwriting and signed on the last page; this is known as a holographic will.

However, it is recommended that you seek the services of an attorney to have a will prepared. In addition to preparing the will, an attorney can advise you on issues such as how property should be titled, estate taxes, and other estate planning needs.

As Christian stewards we should plan and manage the Lord's property well.

Proverbs 21:5 says: "The plans

of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty."

Proverbs 21:20 says: "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

In other words, it takes work and planning to be a good steward.

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, it took work and planning to invest five talents and earn five more before the master returned, while the servant who did nothing received a severe punishment.

Part of the work in being a good steward is writing a will. In many cases we do not take the time to write a will because we do not want to think about death, but when you need a will, it is too late to write it. You must plan now!

# WMU will assist at-risk women via Christian Women's Job Corps

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — A program to help women break the poverty cycle through one-to-one mentoring has been launched by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in South Carolina.

The "Christian Women's Job Corps" was officially launched Jan. 6 in Columbia as about 60 people from across the state learned how they can help economically disadvantaged women improve themselves spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and educationally.

It is the first of nine such pilot projects sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union to be launched in the Southern Baptist Convention. The others are expected to start later this year.

"In all of the projects, our goal is to have the woman at risk partnered with a mentor who can help her discover her goals in life and then help her meet those goals," said Trudy Johnson, director of special projects for the national WMU organization. "We do not want to say to her, 'This is the way you do it.' We want her to find a way to be all that she can be and all that God wants her to be."

Anne Davis, retired professor of church social work at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., led the

training session in South Carolina. Successful mentors, she said, must get beyond the "public part" of their lives into the private realm.

Other pilot locations for the Christian Women's Job Corps will be in San Antonio, Texas; Chicago; Miami; Birmingham, Ala.; Bismarck, N.D.; Washington, D.C.; Cleveland; and Richmond, Va. Each of the pilot projects is starting small, but the potential is unlimited, Johnson said.

The job corps program also will provide avenues of ministry and witness to women — and men — who are church members looking for new and innovative ways to do missions. "We see this as another entry point for people who have not been involved in missions," Johnson said. "We also hope that the women we are reaching will eventually want to be a part of Women on Mission."

The primary purpose remains helping at-risk women. "The purpose of Christian Women's Job Corps is to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment," said Brenda Kneece, associate director of South Carolina's WMU.

While all of the pilot programs are designed differently, each one

will provide training in job skills, parenting skills, and financial management to women in need. Bible study and discipleship also will be a part of each program. Each participant will be matched with a Christian mentor.

"Through a mentoring relationship, the woman at risk gains skills for life and employment," said Kneece. "Our program may be utilized by an associational or church WMU, or may be used by one woman seeking to help another."

Several elements are key to the program:

— Every participant will have a Christian mentor.

— Each will sign a covenant agreeing to participate in Bible study and to attend training classes.

— No woman will be turned down.

— Training and counseling will be customized to meet the needs of each woman.

— A long-term goal is that women who have been clients will eventually become mentors.

The South Carolina project was designed by a WMU task force that included women with experience in counseling, owning businesses, health care, education, and government, and persons who at one time had been at risk themselves.

## Thomas Nelson, former MBCB employee, dies

Thomas R. Nelson, 43, died of heart failure Jan. 9 in Ridgecrest, Calif. Funeral services were held on Jan. 12 at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home in Jackson.

Nelson was a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and a former employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Survivors include: his mother, Kate, of Jackson; four brothers, and one sister.

He was preceded in death by his father Art Nelson, who served as MBCB business manager from 1958-84.

As 1996 begins, review your job as a steward of the Lord's assets. Seek wise counsel and resolve to make any changes or adjustments that are needed.

Resolve to make a will. In so doing, consider making a gift through your will to your church or other Baptist causes. This will further the cause of Christ on earth.

Having a properly drawn will is a win/win situation.

You win satisfaction from succeeding as an accountable steward. Your family wins as you continue after death to care for them.

Finally, the Lord's work wins as you make a difference with your entrusted earthly resources.

**Fisher is executive director, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.**

## Don't Forget!

The deadline for registering for all events connected with the 50th anniversary annual convention of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA) is Friday, Feb. 9. For a complete listing of MBREA convention events, see page 3 of the Jan. 11 issue of **The Baptist Record**. For registration information, contact MBREA secretary-treasurer David Webb, minister of education and youth, Union Baptist Church, 1716 W. Union Road, Picayune, MS 39466. Telephone: (601) 798-6470.



## Ministerial Education officers

Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Board of Ministerial Education (from left) are Joe Campbell, vice president, pastor of First Church, Wiggins; Ruthie Courtney, secretary, Madison; LuAnne Ford, executive committee member, minister of music, First Church, Booneville; and David Millican, president, pastor, South McComb Church, McComb. The board currently provides aid grants of \$25,000 per month to 251 church-related vocations students. All the money comes from Cooperative Program funds. Miller said the board has signed a trust agreement to establish the Ernest Pinson Memorial Scholarship with a beginning corpus of \$5,500. Pinson was longtime head of the Religion Department at Mississippi College.



# Strong support crucial factor in reaching state's students

By Jerry Merriman

Every year in some meeting in which the ministry of Baptist Student Union (BSU) is being interpreted, the question comes, "How is BSU funded locally and statewide?"

I always welcome the question for a number of reasons.

First, it gives me the chance to thank Mississippi Baptists for their generosity, which enables us to conduct a Christian witness on 31 state campuses with approximately 100,000 students — 51,499 of whom are listed as Baptist or Baptist-preference.

Secondly, it provides an opportunity to clarify financial relationships; and thirdly, it provides a platform to encourage additional financial support in areas of critical need.

The basic financial support for BSU on the local level is generated by local churches and associations. This money provides for day-to-day program activities and general operating expenses.

In a few cases, alumni groups fund specific projects during the school year.

At the state level, the Cooperative Program (CP) makes possible 21 full-time positions and various supplementary relationships with Baptist colleges and with part-time/volunteer situations.

Approximately 93% of the budget for the Department of Student Work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is designated for personnel support.

The remaining 7% is designated for programming, promotion, and travel.

There are 19 BSU centers

around the state, and in most cases the title to these centers is held by the MBCB, which has budgeted \$35,000 in 1996 for student center capital needs.

In addition, local Baptist Student Unions support student mis-

ministries — 5,008 of whom were actively involved in campus programs.

There were 200 student conversions, 674 baptisms reported in the Annual Church Profiles (ACP) of local churches, 624 students preparing for church-related vocations, and 1,672 students attending state and national BSU meetings.

Bold Mission Thrust (BMT) reports indicate that 1,636 students were involved in Bible study and 730 students were involved in discipleship groups.

BMT reports also reflected that 90 evangelism outreach projects were conducted and 577 students were involved in community missions.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your interest and support of the BSU ministry. Our entire Mississippi BSU family salutes you for the investment you are making now in the leaders of tomorrow.

The MBCB Student Work Department can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Merriman is director, MBCB Student Work Department.

sions through sacrificial giving and fund-raising projects.

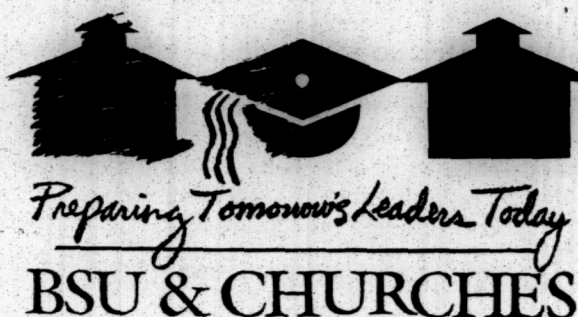
During the summer of 1994, 93 BSU students served as summer missionaries in 25 states and five foreign countries. Also, 295 students were involved in short-term missions projects.

A total of \$117,566 was expended for students missions for the 1994-95 school year.

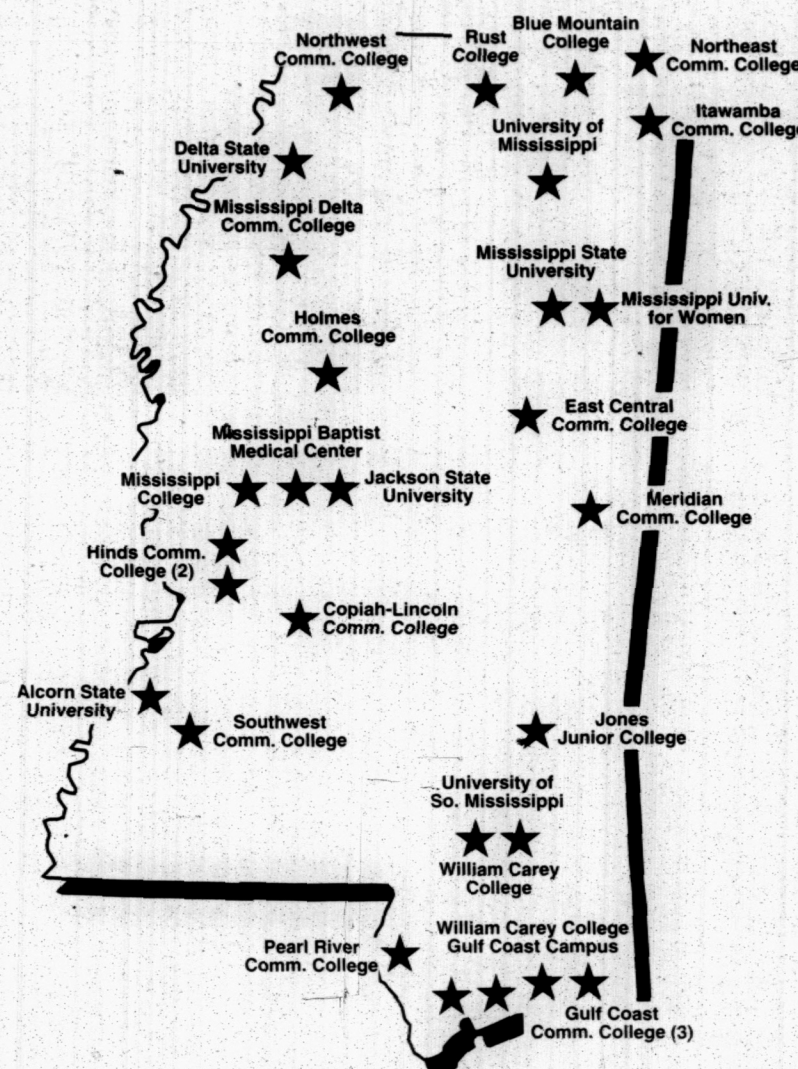
Mississippi ranked third in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the number of BSU-appointed full term summer missionaries. The state ranked second in the SBC in missions funds raised.

Student missionaries reported 911 conversions, 371 commitments, and 74 baptisms. A student missionary who served in Kenya reported seeing more than 7,000 decisions for Christ during events in which he participated.

During the 1994-95 school session, Baptist Student Unions reported approximately 15,007 students reached through BSU



## Baptist Student Unions Mississippi



Source: MBCB Student Work Department

## SBC student ministry program reports several gains in 1995

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist student ministry program reported several gains in 1995, including an increase in campuses with student ministry programs and the number of students reached; gifts to missions and hunger relief; and the number of churches, Sunday Schools, and missions students helped start.

Decreases were reported in the number of student conversions and participation of minorities and international students.

According to the 1995 Student Ministry Information Report, compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry (NSM), 236,344 students participated in student ministry programs in 1995, up from 188,323 the previous year. SBC student work was reported on 1,029 campuses, up from 1,013 in 1994.

The report stated students participating in SBC programs gave \$3,158,519 to missions in 1995, up from \$2,782,732 the previous year. Student gifts to hunger relief also increased, from \$74,025 in '94 to \$98,767 in '95. In addition, students helped start 346 churches, missions, or Sunday schools in '95, up from 153 the previous year.

The report showed the following decreases:

— student conversions: from 7,528 in '94 to 5,963 in '95;

— minority student involvement: African Americans, from 11,603 in '94 to 8,979 in '95; other ethnic groups, from 7,534 in '94 to 4,872 in '95;

— international student involvement, from 10,193 in '94 to 9,388 in '95.

National Student Ministry Director Bill Henry said he was both pleased and challenged by the report.

"It shows Southern Baptist student ministry is alive and growing, but there are still some areas where we have work to do," he said, adding he specifically was concerned about drops in minority, ethnic, and international student participation.

"I've already met with a group of state student ministry directors to discuss ways to impact this," he said. "We may need to come up with some new ministry models, and we're prepared to do that. This is a priority for us."

At a conference last summer, members of an interagency task force coordinated by national student ministry called for a "new movement" of international student ministry. At the same meeting, NSM released an administra-

tive manual designed to help both Baptist Student Unions (BSUs) and churches in reaching and involving internationals. "Ministering to International Students" is available free of charge by writing to NSM in care of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In other areas, the Student Ministry Information Report showed the number of students involved in witness training decreased slightly from 13,497 in '94 to 13,275 in '95, but the number of campuses reporting evangelistic outreach projects increased from 512 to 549. The number of students involved in Bible study groups decreased from 39,619 to 34,172, while the number of students involved in discipleship training increased from 16,578 to 16,694.

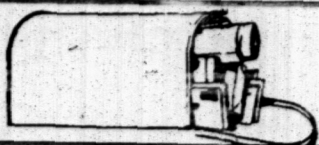
Procedural changes for reporting statistics in some categories made figures no longer comparable to previous years. One example is the total number of students involved in missions, which totaled 23,491 in '95.

A new category — students involved in student ministry programs — was added to report the number of students who are regular participants in student ministry activities and events. The total in that category was 104,326.

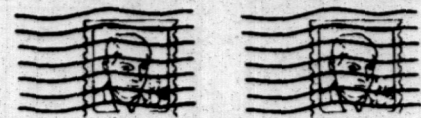


Members of the MSU-BSU singing group "Drawn Together" are (seated, from left) Emily Bailey, Vardaman; Dusty Pittman, Clinton; Paige Harrington, Mantee; (standing) Michael Means, Puckett; Ginger Tedder, Vardaman; and Scott Hanks, Coldwater. The group has sung for worship services, banquets, youth activities, and retreats. For additional information, contact the MSU-BSU at (601) 323-5761, or P.O. Box BU, Mississippi State, MS 39762.





# Letters to the editor



## Pastors need support

Editor:

The recent tragic death of a pastor friend who took his own life reminded me that even a called man of God is very human and not immune to despair, depression, and a feeling of hopelessness. The examples of burnout, forced resignations, divorce, career changes, health problems and yes, even suicide are reaching epidemic proportions among the clergy, including Baptists. Let us not forget that Moses, Jonah, Elijah, and Paul were honest enough to admit that there were times when they despaired to the point of taking their own lives.

I write from a unique perspective. My father was a Baptist minister, and I have been a pastor for 31 years. All my 52 years have been spent in the pastor's home. I am keenly aware of the extra demands and stress. I also write from a position of strength having served churches that were primarily supportive and encouraging to their pastor and staff. For the past nine years I have had the privilege to shepherd one of the most loving and loyal church families in the Convention.

Unfortunately, my situation is the exception rather than the norm. My appeal to church members is to be very sensitive to your pastor and your staff ministers and their families. They need your daily prayer support and tangible means of love and encouragement. If it is necessary to be critical, do it in a tactful, constructive way and in the love and spirit of Jesus Christ.

I am not aware of a perfect pastor nor a perfect church. There is enough pain, division, and sin outside the church. Let's work "to encourage one another, and build up one another" (1 Thes. 5:11).

May our lay members make a

resolution in 1996 to give more support and demonstrate more love to their pastor and his family. May our pastors make resolutions in 1996 to grow more spiritually, to spend more time with their families and to give the best year of service in their life to God and to the people he has called them to shepherd. The end result will be greater churches, stronger Christians and more people coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Larry W. Fields  
Knoxville, Tenn.

## A disturbing trend

Editor:

I'm writing because of a very disturbing trend that I have just noticed in **The Baptist Record**, especially in the last few months, as a matter of fact, there are two things:

First, you print news about unnecessary controversy, covering things of the world and TV. I do not watch "trashy talk" on TV. My TV has an "off" button.

The second thing I do care about is, why have you or some of your staff stopped using the words "First Baptist?" You first dropped the word "Baptist," now in the last issue, Dec. 14, 1995, you dropped the word "First."

It is now the "Church of whatever" town or county. Are we ashamed of being called "Baptist," or do we have something to hide? Are we afraid we might offend somebody? Are we trying to make another apology? I would suggest you and your staff read 1 Kings 13.

I hope you print this letter in **The Record**. Oh! I'm sorry, I meant to say **Baptist Record**.

Allen K. Smith  
Tylertown

**Editor's Note:** The trend of

omitting "Baptist" in churches has been going on for more than 15 years. We identify only the churches which are not Baptist, so you can safely assume "First Church" means "First Baptist Church."

## Truth stated clearly

Editor:

I would like to speak in support of the front page article of the Dec. 21 issue of **The Baptist Record**, entitled "Christmas traditions not always based on the facts." It has been a long time since I've heard these truths stated so clearly and forcefully. I fear that many Southern Baptists (as well as most other Christians) have allowed these truths to go unsaid for so long that they have become forgotten by a whole generation.

No doubt the author of this article is aware that the origin of the word "Easter" has its roots in pagan idolatry as well. It would also be encouraging to see a similar article reporting those facts at that season of the year.

As adults, we enjoy telling our little ones about Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, and the Easter Bunny — and then, when they reach the age of accountability, we just don't understand why they resist our efforts to tell them about Jesus. No wonder our Lord called us "sheep" — the dumbest animals on earth!

For me Christmas is the saddest time of the year — and it is simply because we, as a people, are making a mockery of one of the most precious events that God has ever given to mankind. The fact is that there is nothing so compelling as the simple truth. The miraculous conception and birth of our Lord and Savior and the power of his resurrection need no embellishment by exaggeration or foundation in paganism to win the attention and the hearts of men. We should simply tell the truth, such as we are able to know, and leave it there. I fear that, on Judgment Day, we may be given the opportunity to explain why we "caused one of these little ones to stumble."

Again, thank you for a wonderful and timely article.

David A. Box  
Grenada

## God blesses gifts

Editor:

God has blessed the efforts of Phalti Church, Prentiss, as they sought to honor God through their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Phalti Church is located in rural Jeff Davis County. The goal set by the church's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) was \$1,200 — to be collected throughout the month of December. I encouraged the deacons and WMU to attempt to reach the goal in a one day offering, Dec. 10.

In the weeks before the

offering, the church was reminded of how important the Lottie Moon Offering is, and what the money is used for. Information concerning the Foreign Mission Board's White Harvest Emphasis was shared with the members and Prayer Guides for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions were distributed to all members.

During a "Hanging of the Green" service church members brought in 12 candles, each representing \$100 of the church's offering goal. As the candles were placed in the sanctuary, the congregation was reminded of how that money might be used to tell people about the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

As the time for the offering arrived, many members came forward carrying not only their offering envelopes, but offerings from members who were unable to attend as well. When the final total was tabulated, the one day offering had gathered \$2,350.20. As the news was shared with church members during the evening service, a spontaneous applause broke out. The regularly scheduled service was changed to give time for the members to sing "To God Be The Glory" and to give thanks to God for allowing them to be instruments of blessings to others.

Tim Moore, pastor  
Phalti Church  
Prentiss

## Bivocational Ministers Fellowship Dinner

held in connection with

Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference

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5 p.m.-6:15 p.m. — Monday, Jan. 30, 1996

No registration necessary. Compliments of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, contact Matt Buckles at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

*I want so badly to have peace in my life, but a nagging habit keeps rearing its head and I can't seem to shake this desire. What should I do?*

You are on your way to overcoming this problem because you recognize that the desire within you prevents you from achieving the peace you seek. James 1:14 (NIV) says, "but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." Desires often spring from our willingness to try to make ourselves happy rather than depending on God for our happiness. Such desires eventually become habit-forming — smoking, pornography, shopping, television, overeating, etc. Habits can be unmerciful taskmasters, enslaving us to bondage. You must first determine that you want to "shake the desire," then confess it to God and to a trusted Christian who will hold you accountable. Be aware of your times of greatest temptation, and ask that person to pray for you. Learn new patterns of constructive behavior that will help combat your desire (memorizing Scripture, praying, singing hymns, etc.). Last, don't give up when you fail. Keep

fighting. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the dark forces of evil in this world (Eph. 6:12).

*Our son has joined a cult and is prepared to die defending his "church," like the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. How can I get him out of this cult?*

Most people join cults because the cults give meaning to their lives, afford them a position in which they feel important, and indoctrinate them with a system of belief against which they cannot argue. Your son has been deceived by the desires of his own heart, but hasn't that been true of people since the days of Adam and Eve? Don't argue with him or try to convince him that he is wrong. Show him that you love him for who he is, not what he has done. Send him encouraging notes and letters, and phone him as much as possible. Be the love of our heavenly Father for him. Cults often begin to falter with members as the group loses its sense of uniqueness and newness. Doubt will emerge, and that will be your moment to step in — if your Christian love has been consistent while your son has been the prodigal (Luke 15:11-32).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## Campers meet winter needs

Mississippi Campers on Mission recently met at Grand Gulf State Park near Port Gibson to repair the roof and other projects on the Grand Gulf-area home of two elderly black women (shown center, front row). The 14 couples who participated in the project were: Earl and Frances Allen of Ridgeland; Alton and Edith Allred of Brookhaven; Alton and Betty Barber of Newton; E.L. and Theo Bennett of Cleveland; Howard and Mary Conner of Smithdale; Charles and Naomi Lee of Tupelo; Mac and Eloise McClure of Louin; Walter and Mickey Moore of Grenada; Euel and Melba Nelson of Brookhaven; Russell and Pete Reeves of McComb; Horace and Bonnie Ross of Ridgeland; M.L. and Josie Summers of Bogue Chitto; and John and Nell Thomas of Bogue Chitto. Also participating were the Crafts, hometown unknown.



## Names in the News



**Perkinston Church**, Perkinston, ordained two new deacons Dec. 10. They are: (from left) Mark Long, pastor; **Martin O'Neal** and **Rick Hartfield**, new deacons; and Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association.

**KANSAS CITY, Kan. (ABP)** — Archeologist and biblical backgrounds teacher **Larry McKinney** has left the faculty of Midwestern Seminary to work at the nearby Central Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. McKinney is the sixth faculty or staff member to come to Central from Midwestern in the last two years, since trustees set out to turn the Southern Baptist seminary more conservative. Trustees elected a conservative, Mark Coppenger, as the

school's president last spring, replacing long-time president Milton Ferguson, a moderate.

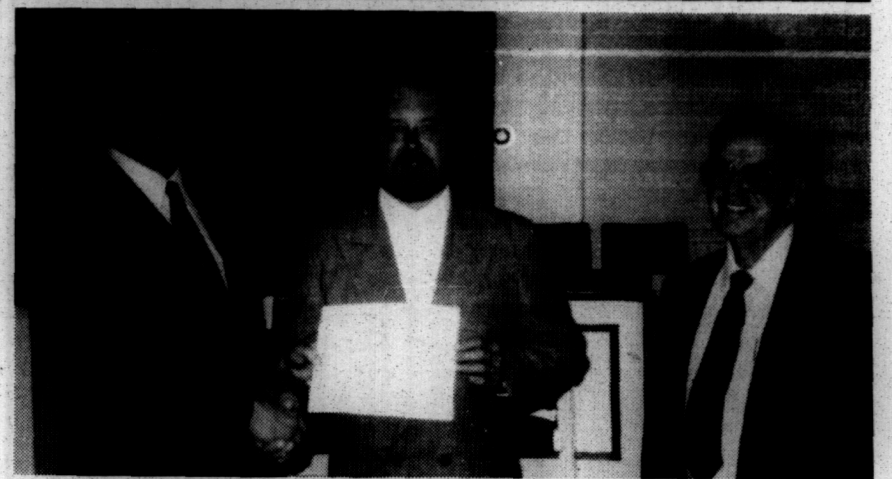
**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)** — **Allen Meeks**, former executive director for the Alaska Convention, died Nov. 30 in Mountain Home, Ark. He was 77. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ruth, and four children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter born four days before his death.

**MARS HILL, N.C. (ABP)** — Former Clemson University president **Max Lennon** has been named president of Mars Hill College, a Baptist school in Mars Hill, N.C. Lennon, 55, is currently president and chief executive officer of Eastern Foods, Inc., in Atlanta. He succeeds Fred Bentley beginning March 1. Bentley, president for 30 years, will become president emeritus and plans to do fund-raising for the college through June 1997.

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)** — Samford University President **Thomas Corts** has been elected president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), a regional accrediting organization representing more than 12,000 public and private schools. Corts was chosen to lead SACS during the organization's annual meeting in Atlanta Dec. 10-13.

**Charles W. Sharpe** is available for supply, bivocational work, and speaking engagements. While a student at Clarke College, he was youth minister at Ludlow Church, Ludlow. He was the founder and director of Athletic Chaplaincy Training Service while a student at the University of Mobile. Sharpe has recently been appointed chief of the Brooksville Police Department. For more information, contact him at P.O. Box 441, Brooksville, MS 39739; telephone (601) 738-5531.

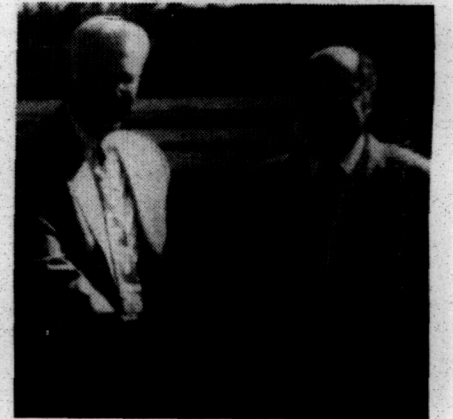
**Mary Jo Ayres** is a motivational, educational speaker-trainer-consultant for all preschool, kindergarten and primary teachers, child care providers, and educational organizations. She demonstrates "Natural Learning" techniques such as songs, finger-plays, and poems. She also shares art and puppetry ideas in



**Tom Glaze Jr.** (center) was ordained as a deacon of First Church, Polkville, on Oct. 29. Billy Ray Smith (right) of Jupiter Church, Simpson County, gave the charge. Jeff Thomas (left) is pastor of First Church, Polkville.

workshops. For more information contact her at (601) 686-9691.

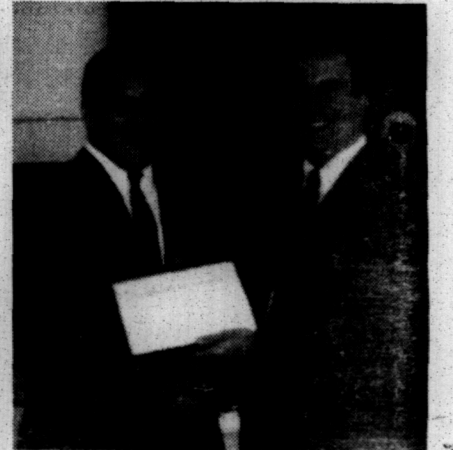
**Dewey W. Graves**, 86, died of cancer on Dec. 19, 1995. Funeral services were held Dec. 22 at First Church, Ferguson, Mo. The Ripley native was a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, William Jewell College, and Midwestern Seminary. He served as chaplain for Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., and later as pastor of Fourth Church, St. Louis. Graves is survived by his wife Ruby; daughter Sally Ann Perkins of Salisbury, Mo.; grandson Jason Graves of Springfield, Mo.; and four sisters, Lillian Rutherford and Vertie May Tapp, both of Ripley, Alti Jernigan of Memphis, and Alma McGee of New Albany.



**John Johnson** (right), member of Salem Church, Lauderdale County, was congratulated for his 35 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School by Danny Ethridge, pastor (left).



**Pleasant Hill Church**, New Albany, licensed **Nathan Hodum** (left) to the ministry on Oct. 8. On Nov. 19 Pleasant Hill called Hodum, a freshman at Blue Mountain College, as youth minister. Pictured with Hodum is Randy Rinehart (right), pastor.



**Friendship West Church**, Tutwiler, recently awarded Sunday School pins for perfect attendance to **Casey Clark**, 13, 13 years; **Matt Clark**, 11, 11 years, and **Katy Clark**, 6, 6 years. Pictured with their children are Allen and Sherry Clark.

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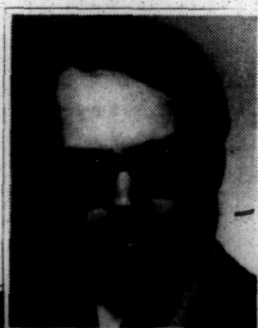
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## Just for the Record



**Magnolia Church, Laurel**, recently held a GA Recognition Service. GAs (from left) are DeVona Parker, leader, Stephanie Houston, Mandy Chandler, Jessica Selman, Samantha Gibson, Kayla Bradberry, and Donna Bradberry, leader.



**Antioch Church, Hazlehurst**, along with other churches in the surrounding communities, collected between 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of food for a food drive to benefit Gateway Mission in Jackson during the Thanksgiving holidays. Sundays from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5 were designated for certain foods. In addition to all of the dry goods that were collected, several families purchased turkeys. Other churches participating were New Providence, Strong Hope, Pearl Valley, Providence Missionary Baptist, Sardis, and Smyrna.

**Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth**, will hold an all-day dedication service on Jan. 21 beginning with Sunday School at 10 a.m. After the 11 a.m. worship services, lunch will be served, followed by an afternoon singing. Kara Blackard is pastor.

**Center Ridge Church, Yazoo Association**, will host Aaron Shook, contemporary Christian musician, in concert on Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. The concert, titled "Cool

Nights... Warm Hearts," is free, but seating is limited. For more information call the church at (601) 746-1528.

**Calvary Church, Columbia**, will host the evangelistic drama, "Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames," Jan. 28-30 at 7 p.m. nightly. "Played before capacity crowds and with a cast of 50, this dramatized real life presentation has ignited revival in churches and cities across the nation," said

David White, Calvary's pastor. For more information, call (601) 736-6336.

The National Players will present William Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing** on Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Dumas L. Smith Auditorium at William Carey College. The National Players, in residence at the University of Maryland, are America's longest running classical touring company. For more information call (601) 582-6192.

An exhibit of artworks by members of **Shekinah**, the Mississippi Association of Religious Artists, will be on display at the Lucile Parker Gallery at William Carey College from Jan. 11 through Feb. 2. Artists included in the show from Hattiesburg are: Cile Waite, Edna Bishop, Dick Eastman, Joy Fletcher, Barbara Parker, Shirley Glaab, Liz Ann Barber, Patsy Howell, Mark Landis, and Kym Garraway. Laurel artists include Erliss Pung, Amelia Crumbley and James Eddy. Andy Drummonds, Sam Gore, and Kenneth Quinn of Clinton, Lea Barton of Flora, Lynn Allen of Ridgeland, Anne Hange of Jackson, Patt Odom of Ocean Springs, and Jean Garretson of Leakesville are also exhibiting. The exhibit can be viewed during regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., or by appointment. 582-6192.



**Mount Vernon Church, Lauderdale Association**, held a note burning service on Dec. 3 for an educational building and fellowship hall. The note was in the amount of \$250,000 and was paid off in one year. Pictured (from left) are Grady Dukes, trustee; Roy Dearing, trustee; Frank Tribble, pastor; Bobby Beasley, trustee and building committee chairman; and Ed Sheely, stewardship chairman.

**Volunteers are needed** for a summer construction project in Ketchikan, Alaska. Participants will be asked to help install vinyl siding on buildings at the Orton Ranch retreat center, sponsored by First Church, Ketchikan. Clean-up and carpentry work will also be part of the effort. For more information, call Murrell Tubb at (601) 369-7107.

**Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.**, is accepting nominations by Feb. 1 for its 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Graduates of the seminary who have been active in vocational Christian ministry for at least 10 years are eligible. Nominations should include a letter of recommendation and a current resume or biographical sketch of the nominee and mailed to Southern Seminary's

Office of Alumni Services, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

**Mississippi College** will host the annual meeting of the Mississippi Council of Graduate Schools Jan. 25-26. Edward L. McMillan, vice president for graduate studies and special programs at Mississippi College, currently serves the group as president. For more information, call (601) 925-3260.

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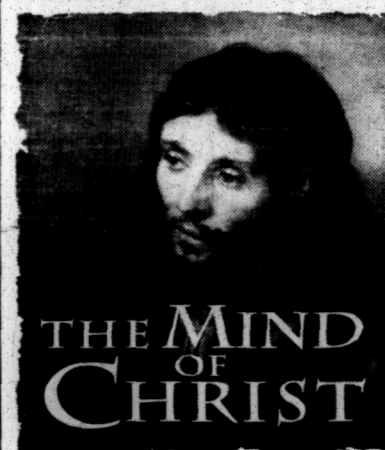
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First Baptist Church, Columbus  
More info: contact the Education Office  
(601) 328-3915 / FAX (601) 328-3952

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life-changing event!



**Felix and Dene Greer**, missionaries to Liberia, are on the field (address: Southern Baptist Mission, P.O. Box 10-1416, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia). He was born in New Orleans, La., and also lived in Baton Rouge, La., and Vicksburg, Clinton, and Jackson. She is the former Dene Brummett of Jackson.

**Jerald and Elaine Perrill**, missionaries to Thailand, are in the States (address: 1601 Plymouth Dr., Irving, TX 75061). He was born in Ellsworth, Kan., and considers Boulder, Colo., his hometown. She is the former Elaine Fortenberry of Monticello.

**Frank and Jerry Anne Pevey**, missionaries to Tanzania, are in the States (address: 864 Laughlin Rd., Cleveland, MS 38732). Both are

natives of Mississippi and consider Skene their hometown. He was born in Hazlehurst, and she, the former Jerry Anne Howarth, in Cleveland.

**Mary Jo Stewart**, missionary to Kenya, is in the States (address: 105 Billy Bird Dr., Clinton, MS 39056). A native of Caesar, she was executive secretary of the Arizona Woman's Missionary Union, Phoenix, at the time of her appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

**James and Gwen Young**, missionaries to Bangladesh, are on the field (address: Box 99, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Thomastown, and she is the former Gwen Jenkins of Kosciusko.

**Currently among Southern Baptists**, there is a revival of interest in and commitment to the **Doctrines of Grace** and their remarkable significance in Southern Baptist history.

A special conference is planned for Mississippi Baptists who share common interest in this area. It will be at the **Halbert Heights Baptist Church in Brookhaven** on **Sat., Jan. 27th**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please send your address to:

640 Halbert Heights Rd.  
Brookhaven, MS 39601

For further information, contact  
**Pastor "Cap" Pooser** at (601) 833-6659 or 833-1135.

## Staff Changes

**Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto**, has called **Brent Rutland** as associate pastor/minister of youth. He attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College and William Carey College, and now attends Mississippi College. He formerly served Zion Hill Church, Wesson. Danny Moss is pastor.

**Providence Church, Hattiesburg**, has called **Todd Sumrall** as part-time associate pastor effective Jan. 1. A native of Ocean Springs, he received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Cedarcrest Church, Baton Rouge, La.

**Calvary Church, Tupelo**, has called **R. Bryant Barnes Jr.** as pastor effective Jan. 14. A native



Barnes

of New Orleans, Barnes was reared in Poplarville. A graduate of William Carey College, he received his master of divinity and doctorate degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He previously served College Place Church, Monroe, La.

**David Millican**, pastor of **South McComb Church, McComb**, for 32 years, has announced his retirement effective Jan. 7. He will remain with the church through July 14. He plans to continue to serve as Chaplain of Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center and

serve area churches in pulpit supply and interim pastorates during his retirement.

**Twin Lakes Church, Northwest Association**, has called **Gary Killen** as pastor. A native of Neshoba County, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was East Morton Church, Morton.

**Riverhill Church, Peppertown**, has called **Kevin Merritt** as pastor effective Aug. 6. He previously served Pleasant Dale Church, Pontotoc.

**Pike Association** has called **Gary R. Fuller** of Omaha, Neb., as director of missions. He and his wife Nell, both natives of McComb, will move to McComb on Feb. 1. Fuller will replace Glen Williams who retired Dec. 31.

**First Church, Macon**, has called **Kim K. Wolverton** as pastor effective Dec. 31. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and is currently working on his doctoral dissertation at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson. He previously served Mt. Carmel Church, Leake Association.

**Michael Duff**, a native of Columbus, has recently resigned North Springfield Church, Springfield, Tenn., to enter the ministry



Duff

of evangelism. Duff is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and Southern Seminary. Churches he previously served in Mississippi are West Side, Macon; Neshoba, Union; New Prospect and Eastport in Iuka. For further information, write him at 105 Lee Drive, Springfield, TN 37172 or call (615) 384-0835.

**Puckett Church, Puckett**, has called **Joe Elliott** as minister of music effective Jan. 2. A native of Brookhaven, he received his education at Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Bethel Church, Brandon.

## Pontotoc's First Church marks 150th

First Church, Pontotoc, will celebrate its 150th anniversary beginning Feb. 4. Theme for the sesquicentennial will be "Remembrance and Renewal — A Reason to Celebrate."

Former pastors and guest speakers will participate in special events through July 28.

February guests will include: — Feb. 4, Joyce Mitchell, associate executive director, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), Birmingham, Ala. An association-wide WMU banquet will be held at the church Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. to honor Mitchell.

— Feb. 11, former pastor Gordon Sansing and former music minister Jim Hess, both now at First Church, Vicksburg.

— Feb. 25, former pastor Julian Fagan, now attorney in Amory, and former music minister David Prevost, now on the staff of Calvary Church, Tupelo.

W.H. Sims III is pastor.



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## Uniform Life's value set by God



By David Mitchell  
Matthew 19, 1 Corinthians 6,  
Romans 12

Working a miracle in only the way our great God can, Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe in *Roe vs. Wade*) was recently baptized. She will speak to at least one national pro-life rally this year. While Norma McCorvey's testimony is evidence that God is at work changing the hearts and lives of those who are pro-abortion, it has never been as critical as it is now for the church and Christians to become involved in stopping legalized abortion.

Southern Baptists set aside one day a year, Sanctity of Human Life Day (Jan. 21), to help us better recognize the significance of this issue by calling attention to the value God places on life. We live in a world that desperately needs to hear that God values every form of human life. This is easily seen by the following current examples of disregard for life:

A woman was recently convicted of selling her newborn son for \$1,400. She had reportedly previously sold a baby girl for \$4,000.

In China, possibly the most horrid example of lack of value for human life is found in a report by Japan's Kyodo news service that the Chinese have been eating human fetuses, which are considered a delicacy.

One and a half million abortions are legally performed in America every year. With so many horrific examples of devaluing human life, it is essential that Christians return to the biblical basis of morality and dignity of human life.

Many of the world's ethical problems would be solved if we would allow God to solve our moral problems. Sexual morality is the area of morality where Satan has chosen to bring his strongest attack. Matthew 19:4-6 explains that the marriage relationship is the only relationship where sexual activity is permitted.

God's action in creating one man and one woman should cause us to know that his intention for sexual relations was for that experience to be only with our marriage partners. Verse 5 relates that because God created a man and a woman, a man should leave his father and mother and bind himself to his wife. Jesus asked the Pharisees: "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning, made them male and female... and the two shall become one flesh."

The marriage covenant is the most enduring of all human relationships, superceding even the bond between parent and child. Cleave in verse 1 means a union of the strongest kind. In coming together they shall be so bound that they are considered as one flesh, rather than two. It is in the "one flesh" relationship that God has deemed sexual relations permissible. Again, it is amazing how God solves the ethical problem of an unwanted child to unmarried persons by giving guidelines for moral living.

Paul commanded the Corinthian believers in 1 Corinthians 6:13b, and 18-20 to live a morally pure life, because the presence of God lives within them in the form of the Holy Spirit. God's desire is to fill our bodies with himself. By constantly reminding ourselves that our bodies are the home of the Holy Spirit, it will be easier to resist sexual temptation.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul used the image of the altar to call his readers to commitment. He told them in verse 1 to dedicate themselves to God by presenting their bodies as a free and voluntary offering. When Christians present their bodies as living sacrifices to God they will avoid sexual immorality as well as any other abuse of the body. A constant renewing of the mind by intimate communion with God is the only way to continually present the body as a reasonable service.

Verse 2 says, "Do not be formed or fashioned by the world." The greatest discovery we can make is to discover the will of God. As we place our lives on the altar of God, our discovery will reveal that his will relates not only to the body, but also to the mind — not externals, but also internals. The reasons for being sexually pure are beyond avoiding an unwanted baby. They go to the core of our relationship with God and force us to decide to be obedient or deliberately choose to sin. Pro-life leaders encourage us to see the moral issues surrounding abortion and promiscuity. We would be wise to first see the spiritual issues.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

## Bible Book Sexual purity



By Clayton Littlejohn  
Matthew 19, 1 Corinthians 6,  
Romans 12

Our society glorifies sexual perversion to the point that marriage and monogamy are laughed at and scorned by many. Homosexuality is accepted, and even has laws to encourage it. Abortion on demand is promoted and even funded with tax dollars. Let's examine the Scripture and see how far we have moved from God's guidelines on sexual purity.

**Sexuality: part of God's plan (Matt. 19:4-6).** The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus on one of the most controversial issues in Israel, divorce. Would he side with the conservatives who forbid divorce, or the liberals, who promoted it?

Neither. He took God's side (vv. 4-6), which states marriage is a physical union that can only be broken by a physical cause: death, sexual sin, or an unbelieving spouse leaves.

Marriage was instituted by God to meet man's need (Gen. 2:18-20). Sex was created so a husband and wife could express their love for each other and create the family (Gen. 1:27-28). Divorce destroys God's will by breaking up the family. "God hates divorce," says Malachi 2:16, not divorced people.

In college I had a professor, James Travis, who gave five reasons why God hates divorce. They are: 1) it indicates selfishness; 2) it indicates immaturity; 3) it shows an unwillingness to find God's will; 4) it indicates an inability to keep a vow; 5) and what it does to the family. I believe he hit the nail on the head. God acknowledged divorce (Lev. 21:7,14; Deut. 24:1-4; Isa. 50:1), but he does not approve of it.

Divorce usually leads to adultery (Luke 16:18). Jesus taught that husband and wife are to be joined (cleave) so close in love that they become as one, (vv. 5-6) and let no one separate them. Sex is a wonderful thing that God created and blessed between husband and wife; don't pervert it by being sexually involved outside marriage.

**Flee fornication: God's plan for escape (1 Cor. 6:13, 18-20).** Corinth was a city dominated by sexual sins; (the name Corinth means "to go to bed with a harlot"). In the church there were: incest (5:1-11), fornicators (sexual immorality in general), adulterers (sex outside marriage), effeminates, and homosexuals (those who pervert the natural, transvestites, sex changers, and homosexuality) (1 Cor. 6:9). Paul commanded them to "flee from immorality" (vv. 13, 17).

Immorality here is from the Greek word *porneia*, from which we get our word pornography. It refers to any illicit sexual act. Joseph in Genesis 39 is a good illustration of how to respond when tempted to commit fornication — run! Why should we flee? Because as believers, our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (v. 19). That's where God lives, and to be sexually involved outside of marriage is to bring God into a place he despises. We defile that which is holy.

You may have never been physically immoral, but I believe we all have been spiritually immoral (Matt. 5:28). This needs to be confessed and forsaken just like the physical act. Fornication brings serious consequences, like death (Prov. 2:18-19), poverty (Prov. 6:26), corruption (Hosea 4:1-3), and judgment (Heb. 13:4). As much as God hates fornication, he will forgive it (John 8:1-11) if we confess and forsake it.

**What God requires, he empowers (Rom. 12:1-2).** God doesn't require blood as a sacrifice any longer, he requires "living sacrifices" that have been purged by the blood of Christ (Rom. 12:1, Heb. 9:11-14; 10:19-20). We now have the privilege of living for Christ, rather than dying for our sins. Every area of our life, including sexuality, is to be offered as a living testimony to God (v. 1). How do we do this? By "not being conformed to this world" (v. 2). The standards of this world are corrupt and unholy. We are to live by God's standards which are pure and holy. How do we keep from conforming? "By the renewing of your mind." Allow God's Word to transform your mind (Psa. 119:9, 11, 133; Phil. 4:8). We can begin our prayer like the Psalmist (139:23-24): "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

## Life and Work A living sacrifice



By Linda Donnell  
Matthew 19, 1 Corinthians 6,  
Romans 12

Our society is bombarded by stimuli with sexual overtones. From billboards using young teenagers in seductive poses to television shows and movies showing sexual relationships with multiple partners and partners of the same sex, the world markets sex in a drastically different way from God's plan. A search of the Scriptures clearly reveals that sex was intended as a gift to mankind rather than the source of a multitude of societal problems seen today.

**God created people as sexual beings (Matt. 19:4-6).** When God created the world he saw one thing that was not "good" (Gen. 2:18). Man was alone. So he created woman to be Adam's companion. He then commanded them to be "fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:28), thus establishing the family. God established marriage as a physical union between one man and one woman, and intended it to be a permanent union (vv. 5-6). Sex was given as a gift, intended to be an expression of love and unity between husband and wife.

**The body is meant for God (1 Cor. 6:13b, 18-20).** "If it comes naturally, do it," is the creed of many people today. This was also true with the Corinthian Christians. Paul strongly rejected this idea and insisted that God did not intend man's body for "fornication" — sex outside marriage (v. 13b). Sex may be a natural desire but it is not to be uncontrolled. We are admonished to restrain our carnal nature (2 Tim. 2:22).

Removing restraints from life may be like taking the brakes from a car. The resulting ride may be filled with thrills for a while, but a crash and injury are almost certain. Sex outside marriage becomes a destructive force producing a multitude of personal and societal problems: guilt, diminished self-worth, pregnancy, abortion, AIDS, and venereal disease.

In verse 18, Paul went a step further and said, "Flee from sexual immorality." This passage is translated from a general New Testament term which includes not only fornication, but adultery, lust, and incest.

A final argument for sexual purity was presented by Paul in verse 20: "You are bought with a price." Failure to follow the will of God is ignoring the debt. Purity of body is as important in glorifying God as purity of mind and heart (Eph. 5:3).

**Serve God with your total person (Rom. 12:1-2).** Paul suggested that the body should be presented as a "living sacrifice" (v. 1). This implies not only the avoiding of sins that are committed with or against the body but also committing the body to the service of God. We have the special opportunity to place our "total" selves on the altar of God and to live all aspects of our lives in accordance with his will.

Followers of God must be non-conformists to this world (v. 2). It is God's standards by which we should live. As we continually receive negative messages concerning sexuality and as sexual immorality becomes common place, it is easy to be lured into the trap of believing that sexual purity is outdated.

Very slowly, the senses can be desensitized and we may buy into the idea of self first, and if "everyone else is doing it," it must be okay. But we should not be deceived; God will judge (Gal. 6:7-8a).

God's guidelines concerning sexual purity are as relevant today as ever. As Christians, we should stand up for these high ideals, but we should also learn to deal with societal problems resulting from their violation in a loving and forgiving manner.

How does the world squeeze you into its mold? What can one person do to change the distorted view of sex marketed today? How can you present your body as a living sacrifice to God?

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



# Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in Village offices during the previous 12 months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in the descending order of the designated cash gifts. This does not include no-cash gift items that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

RANK	CHURCH NAME, CITY	1995 GIFTS
1.	Rolling Creek Baptist Church, Quitman	14094.30
2.	First Baptist Church, McComb	12617.51
3.	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	12151.97
4.	Forest Baptist Church, Forest	11482.00
5.	First Baptist Church, Booneville	11378.68
6.	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	10177.57
7.	Midway Baptist Church, Meridian	9982.60
8.	Rienzi Baptist Church, Rienzi	9598.13
9.	First Baptist Church, Jackson	9586.00
10.	Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Columbia	8603.05
11.	Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro	7250.00
12.	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	7179.27
13.	First Baptist Church, Louisville	6735.10
14.	First Baptist Church, Greenville	6690.88
15.	Harmony Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	6639.56
16.	Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon	6525.00
17.	First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	6487.47
18.	Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond	6475.00
19.	Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton	6350.00
20.	First Baptist Church, Water Valley	6319.77
21.	Wildwood Baptist Church, Clinton	6079.61
22.	Russell Baptist Church, Meridian	6028.00
23.	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	6027.08
24.	First Baptist Church, Brookhaven	6001.00
25.	Williamsville Baptist Church, Kosciusko	5910.00
26.	First Baptist Church, Corinth	5780.10
27.	Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson	5748.99
28.	Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee	5525.00
29.	Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	5490.75
30.	Ackerman Baptist Church, Ackerman	5474.50
31.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg	5094.12
32.	Society Hill Baptist Church, Oak Vale	5031.67
33.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Petal	5029.00
34.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Tate, Independence	5000.00
35.	Briar Hill Baptist Church, Florence	4950.00
36.	Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton	4859.78
37.	Ingomar Baptist Church, New Albany	4741.35
38.	Riverside Baptist Church, Monticello	4640.97
39.	First Baptist Church, Quitman	4499.75
40.	First Baptist Church, Batesville	4390.25
41.	First Baptist Church, Brandon	4384.97
42.	First Baptist Church, Sardis	4364.70
43.	State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian	4245.83
44.	Sylvarena Baptist Church, Raleigh	4177.17
45.	First Baptist Church, New Albany	4076.25
46.	Meadville Baptist Church, Meadville	4075.00
47.	First Baptist Church, Mendenhall	3933.50
48.	Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton	3889.00
49.	Bovina Baptist Church, Vicksburg	3864.94
50.	Liberty Baptist Church, New Albany	3830.50
51.	First Baptist Church, Starkville	3764.97
52.	First Baptist Church, Coldwater	3760.00
53.	Gaston Baptist Church, Booneville	3703.90
54.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Columbus	3625.31
55.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mendenhall	3451.22
56.	Alexander Memorial Baptist Church, Hollandale	3407.70
57.	First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	3405.00
58.	Providence Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	3384.25
59.	First Baptist Church, Clinton	3356.21
60.	Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland	3353.35
61.	North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood	3334.13
62.	First Bellevue Baptist Church, Shelby	3321.00
63.	Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur	3308.00
64.	Friendship Baptist Church, McComb	3259.31
65.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Meridian	3184.27
66.	Straight Bayou Baptist Church, Anguilla	3152.62
67.	First Baptist Church, Amory	3125.00
68.	First Baptist Church, Kosciusko	3100.50
69.	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Booneville	3095.63
70.	Northwest Baptist Association, Hernando	3000.00
71.	Shiloh Baptist Church, Big Creek	2955.55
72.	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	2949.50
73.	Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson	2925.00
74.	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church, Sandy Hook	2911.76
75.	Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	2904.50
76.	Holcomb Baptist Church, Holcomb	2893.65
77.	Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson	2885.00
78.	Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs	2866.00
79.	Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	2850.64
80.	North Winona Baptist Church, Winona	2844.36
81.	Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson	2841.50
82.	First Baptist Church, Itta Bena	2791.98
83.	First Baptist Church, Eupora	2736.33
84.	First Baptist Church, Indianola	2721.67
85.	Ephesus Baptist Church, Forest	2717.57
86.	First Baptist Church, Newton	2683.25
87.	Parkway Baptist Church, Kosciusko	2675.12
88.	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2659.00
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92.	First Baptist Church, Pascagoula	2594.95
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94.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Laurel	2582.58
95.	Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood	2546.40
96.	Navilla Baptist Church, McComb	2535.95
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102.	Plainway Baptist Church, Laurel	2481.75
103.	Springfield Baptist Church, Morton	2477.36
104.	First Baptist Church, Charleston	2461.89
105.	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	2455.00
106.	Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall	2454.78
107.	Topeka Baptist Church, Jayess	2449.60
108.	DeKalb Baptist Church, DeKalb	2445.85
109.	First Baptist Church, Isola	2442.49
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114.	Thrasher Baptist Church, Booneville	
115.	Ruleville Baptist Church, Ruleville	
116.	Prentiss Baptist Church, Prentiss	
117.	Second Baptist Church, Indianola	
118.	First Baptist Church, Yazoo City	
119.	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	
120.	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown, Petal	
121.	Jericho Baptist Church, Baldwin	
122.	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	
123.	Scotland Baptist Church, Winona	
124.	First Baptist Church, Union	
125.	Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Meridian	
126.	First Baptist Church, Cleveland	
127.	Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson	
128.	Dixie Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	
129.	First Baptist Church, Grenada	
130.	Monticello Baptist Church, Monticello	
131.	Trinity First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	
132.	East Fork Baptist Church, Smithdale	
133.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Myrtle	
134.	Edna Baptist Church, Columbia	
135.	First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	
136.	First Baptist Church, Purvis	
137.	Calvary Baptist Church, West Point	
138.	Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson	
139.	Barton Baptist Church, Lucedale	
140.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, New Albany	
141.	Harmony Baptist Church, Pontotoc	
142.	First Baptist Church, Belzoni	
143.	First Baptist Church, Biloxi	
144.	Hickory Grove Baptist Church, McCarley	
145.	Bowmar Avenue Baptist Church, Vicksburg	
146.	North Batesville Baptist Church, Batesville	
147.	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	
148.	First Baptist Church, Natchez	
149.	First Baptist Church, Ripley	
150.	Gum Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	
151.	First Baptist Church, Florence	
152.	Gallman Baptist Church, Gallman	
153.	Madden Baptist Church, Madden	
154.	D'Lo Baptist Church, D'Lo	
155.	Ingram Baptist Church, Baldwin	
156.	Mashulaville Baptist Church, Macon	
157.	Vaiden Baptist Church, Vaiden	
158.	Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Collinsville	
159.	Anchor Baptist Church, Water Valley	
160.	Goodrum Memorial Baptist Church, Vicksburg	
161.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Greenwood	
162.	Moak's Creek Baptist Church, Summit	
163.	Bethel Baptist Church, Poplarville	
164.	Stanton Baptist Church, Natchez	
165.	Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church, Brookhaven	
166.	Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek	
167.	Leaf River Baptist Church, Collins	
168.	Bucatanua Baptist Church, Meridian	
169.	Union Baptist Church, Meridian	
170.	Lexie Baptist Church, Tylertown	
171.	West Kemper Baptist Church, DeKalb	
172.	Oak Dale Baptist Church, Pontotoc	
173.	First Baptist Church, Nettleton	
174.	DeSoto Baptist Church, Shubuta	
175.	Highland Baptist Church, Meridian	
176.	Beulah Baptist Church, Inverness	
177.	Friendship Baptist Church, Sturgis	
178.	Zion Hill Baptist Church, Guntown	
179.	First Baptist Church, Magee	
180.	Hathorn Baptist Church, Columbia	
181.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Tupelo	
182.	Cairo Baptist Church, Ecu	
183.	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	
184.	Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Holly Springs	
185.	Berwick Baptist Church, Gloster	
186.	Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brandon	
187.	First Baptist Church, Canton	
188.	Pearson Baptist Church, Pearl	
189.	Berea Baptist Church, McComb	
190.	First Baptist Church, Anguilla	
191.	Leaf River Baptist Church, Forest	
192.	Grays Creek Baptist Church, Hernando	
193.	Tylertown Baptist Church, Tylertown	
194.	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church, Sturgis	
195.	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Greenville	
196.	Eastend Baptist Church, Columbus	
197.	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	
198.	Center Hill Baptist Church, Ecu	
199.	Derma Baptist Church, Derma	
200.	Harmony Baptist Church, Louisville	
201.	Fair Ridge Baptist Church, Stringer	
202.	Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven	
203.	Success Baptist Church, Saucier	
204.	Oakland Heights Baptist Church, Meridian	
205.	Calvary Baptist Church, Meridian	
206.	Seminary Baptist Church, Seminary	
207.	Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown	
208.	Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton	
209.	Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson	
210.	Sturgis Baptist Church, Sturgis	
211.	Ramah Baptist Church, McCall Creek	
212.	Union Baptist Church, Beaumont	
213.	Good Hope Baptist Church, Louisville	
214.	First Baptist Church, Coffeeville	
215.	Shuqualak Baptist Church, Shuqualak	
216.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Taylorsville	
217.	Taylor Baptist Church, Taylor	
218.	First Baptist Church, Leland	
219.	Magee's Creek Baptist Church, Jayess	
220.	Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven	
221.	Wellman Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	
222.	First Baptist Church, Bruce	
223.	New Harmony Baptist Church, Blue Springs	
224.	Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni	
225.	First Baptist Church, Richton	
226.	Phalt Baptist Church, Prentiss	
227.	Unity Baptist Church, Picayune	1505.53
228.	Chapel Hill Baptist Church, Utica	1493.93
229.	Flora Baptist Church, Flora	1485.00
230.	Eastside Baptist Church, Pearl	1483.00
231.	Carson Baptist Church, Carson	1479.00
232.	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church, Corinth	1467.92
233.	Sallis Baptist Church, Sallis	1455.00
234.	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Liberty	1447.43
235.	Ora Baptist Church, Collins	1436.83
236.	Noxapater Baptist Church, Noxapater	1425.00
237.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mount Olive	1411.00
238.	Beulah Baptist Church, Myrtle	1404.00
239.	Clark Venable Baptist Church, Decatur	1400.51
240.	Union Baptist Church, Corinth	1399.00
241.	Raymond Road Baptist Church, Jackson	1397.55
242.	West Baptist Church, West	1396.00
243.	First Baptist Church, Mathiston	1386.98
244.	Midway Baptist Church, Jackson	1383.00
245.	Kolola Springs Baptist Church, Caledonia	1382.00
246.	Beacon Street Baptist Church, Philadelphia	1375.00
247.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bentonla	1366.00
248.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Quitman	1363.11
249.	First Baptist Church, Pontotoc	1351.98
250.	First Baptist Church, Fulton	1350.00
251.	Shiloh Memorial Baptist Church, Kiln	1347.50
252.	Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo	1347.00
253.	Bolton Baptist Church, Bolton	1342.13
254.	North Carrollton Baptist Church, North Carrollton	1336.45
255.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Florence	1325.00
256.	First Baptist Church, Belmont	1322.00
257.	Branch Baptist Church, Morton	1318.70
258.	First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1315.00
259.	Skene Baptist Church, Skene	1312.56
260.	First Baptist Church, Magnolia	1310.00
261.	Salem Baptist Church, Raymond	1300.00
262.	West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc	1296.81
263.	Williamsburg Baptist Church, Collins	1293.73
264.	Fredonia Baptist Church, New Albany	1292.00
265.	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Mendenhall	1280.00
266.	Chesterville Baptist Church, Tupelo	1277.70
267.	Union Baptist Church, Nettleton	1277.00
268.	Broadway Baptist Church, Olive Branch	1276.00
269.	Second Baptist Church, Greenville	1273.00
270.	Oakland Baptist Church, Oakland	1270.80
271.	First Baptist Church, Eudora, Hernando	1261.50
272.	First Baptist Church, West Point	1261.25
273.	Shiloh Baptist Church, Port Gibson	1256.47
274.	Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1253.00
275.	Horseshoe Baptist Church, Tchula	1248.00
276.	Antioch Baptist Church, Columbus	1248.00
277.	Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar	1242.34
278.	Beulah Baptist Church, Bolton	1237.41
279.	Rocky Point Baptist Church, Carthage	1217.59
280.	Evergreen Baptist Church, Louisville	1215.00
281.	Friendship Baptist Church, Ecu	1212.00
282.	Union Baptist Church, Sardis	1207.01
283.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ellisville	1205.58
284.	First Baptist Church, Summit	1203.00
285.	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Pontotoc	1203.00
286.	Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson	1200.00
287.	Leflore Baptist Church, Holcomb	1200.00
288.	First Baptist Church, Steens	1200.00
289.	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Quitman	1200.00
290.	Knights Valley Baptist Church, Vossburg	1200.00
291.	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church, Philadelphia	1200.00
292.	Chunky Baptist Church, Chunky	1200.00
293.	Bethel Baptist Church, Liberty	1200.00
294.	Tomnolen Baptist Church, Eupora	1198.68
295.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1195.00
296.	Four Mile Creek Baptist Church, Escatawpa	1178.36
297.	Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Walnut Grove	1166.65
298.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ripley	1143.87
299.	Conway Baptist Church, Carthage	1143.37
300.	Valley Park Baptist Church, Valley Park	1133.00
301.	Luka Baptist Church, Luka	1130.04
302.	Northside Baptist Church, Lucedale	1127.05
303.	Hurley Baptist Church, Hurley	1124.25
304.	Corinth Baptist Church, Heidelberg	1117.46
305.	Scobba Baptist Church, Scobba	1115.33
306.	Oakvale Baptist Church, Oak Vale	1104.56
307.	First Baptist Church, Lexington	1104.38
308.	Leaf Baptist Church, Leaf	1100.00
309.	Harmony Baptist Church, Greenwood	1100.00
310.	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Tupelo	1100.00
311.	Arlington Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	1094.20
312.	First Baptist Church, Long Beach	1089.00
313.	Crenshaw Baptist Church, Crenshaw	1086.94
314.	Liberty Baptist Church, De Kalb	1075.00
315.	Arm Baptist Church, Silver Creek	1073.31
316.	Sebastopol Baptist Church, Sebastopol	1073.00
317.	Union Baptist Church, Picayune	1068.18
318.	First Baptist Church, Senatobia	1066.66
319.	Enon Baptist Church, Jayess	1066.00
320.	Calvary Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	1061.97
321.	Bethel Baptist Church, Etta	1060.11
322.	Airport Baptist Church, Grenada	1054.98
323.	Second Baptist Church, Kosciusko	1054.00
324.	Central Baptist Church, McComb	1048.56
325.	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Meridian	1048.53
326.	Galilee Baptist Church, Mendenhall	1048.00
327.	First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis	1047.72
328.	First Baptist Church, Leakesville	1046.00
329.	Tishomingo Baptist Association	1040.00
330.	Calvary Baptist Church, Silver Creek	1039.70
331.	Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont	1037.00
332.	Tusculumbia Baptist Church, Booneville	1034.00
333.	Christ Baptist Church, Greenwood	1018.00
334.	Bethany Baptist Church, Calhoun City	1009.00
335.	Jones Chapel Baptist Church	1000.00
336.	Tusculumbia Baptist Church, Lena	1000.00
337.	Green Brook Baptist Church, Southaven	1000.00
338.	Pine Grove Baptist Church, Picayune	1000.00

## THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



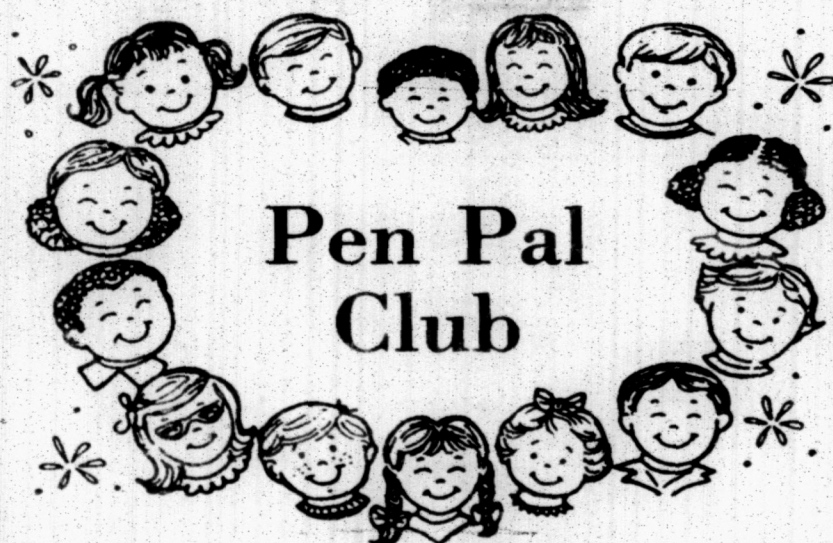


## Women of the Bible

Z P J N A I C I N E H P O R Y S  
Q L E A H M A D X A R W E O R I  
H A Z S T O R W N I O M V H A S  
E H E A R A I N S U O X E U M R  
T C B F A N A C H G H R L L E E  
R I E K M H I H U M P O P D R P  
Y M L N C L B A N N A D M A E H  
P T V A L T R G A M O A H H H E  
H A S A G H K A M J I A M P A B  
E S T H E R B R M R B F D C Z E  
N A T H E T U O I B E E G I F X  
A U W L A Q L M T O L B F C A D  
R A C H E L U W E I Y Z A G H H  
C A B I G A I L L C D O R C A S  
T R Y P H O S A W X I A R A S D  
Z U C A B E H S H T A B X W T A

ABIGAIL	HULDAH	PERSIS
ANNA	JEZEBEL	PHEBE
ATHALIAH	LEAH	PRISCILLA
BATHSHEBA	LYDIA	RACHEL
DELILAH	MARTHA	RAHAB
DORCAS	MARY	RUTH
ESTHER	MICHAL	SARAI
EVE	MIRIAM	SHUNAMMITE
GOMER	NOADIAH	SYROPHENICIAN
HAGAR	NAOMI	TRYPHENA
HANNAH	ORPAH	TRYPHOSA

Source: *Bible Word Search* by Cyril Barnes (Marshall Pickering, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling (800) 727-3480.



## Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Leah Pitts. I am 10 years old and in the fifth grade. My hobbies are swimming, talking on the phone, playing basketball, and listening to music. I have brown hair and brown eyes. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write to me. A boy or girl pen pal will do.

c/o Morgan Chapel Church  
Morgantown Road  
Sturgis, MS 39769

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Claire Graves. I go to Ackerman Elementary School. I am in the second grade. I am 8 years old. I have a younger sister. Her name is Ellen. I have an odds and ends collection. My parents and I own lots of cows. I would like another 8-year-old second grader to write me. Please send a picture of yourself.

c/o P.O. Box 277  
Ackerman, MS 39735

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Amanda Williamson. I'm 13 years old. I am a Christian and I go to Richburg Church. My school is Oak Grove Junior High. I am a percussionist in the Oak Grove Junior High Band. I love animals, especially cats. I want to be an artist when I grow up. I have three pets: a dog, a cat, and a goldfish. Write me:

c/o Richburg Baptist Church  
72 Sandy Run Rd.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Kim Lucas. I am 11 and in the fifth grade. I am a member of Pleasant Hill Church where I participate in a youth group. My hobbies are watching TV, listening to the radio, babysitting, and riding my bike. I have one dog, Pepper. I don't care if you are a boy or a girl. Please send a picture of yourself if you have one.

5790 Hwy 512  
Quitman, MS 39355

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

One reason God made man was to tend and care for His creation. In many places around the world, holiday customs include gifts to the animals. This one is for the birds!

## GET READY (you will need):

- parents to help
- a small, living tree or bush
- string
- heavy needle and thread
- scissors, kitchen knife
- cookie cutters
- peanut butter, suet, nuts, diced fruits, bread, fat drippings, popcorn, cranberries
- nylon netting (from vegetable and fruit bags)

## GET SET

Choose a small, living tree or bush near a window where you can enjoy watching the birds

## GO

Decorate the tree with good things for the birds to eat. Seeds and fat are the best diet to help birds have good energy and keep warm. Here are some ideas for preparing a bird's feast for your tree.

- Cut oranges in half and scoop out the rind. Fill it with seeds and nuts and hang it like a small basket on the tree.
- Stuff a pine cone with hardened fat drippings or peanut butter. Hang the cone from the tree.
- String popcorn, apple pieces, and cranberries together to make delicious ropes for the tree.
- Cut squares, triangles, or star shapes of suet. String with needle and thread, hang on the tree.
- Cut bread into fancy shapes with cookie cutters. Spread each piece shape with butter, peanut butter, or softened fat which will harden when hung outside. String with needle and thread to hang on the tree.
- Mix seeds with fat and bread crumbs, and spoon mixture into pieces of nylon netting. Then tie corners together and hang from tree.

Watch as the birds in your neighborhood enjoy their special gift.

Source: *The Big Book of Bible Crafts and Projects* by Joy MacKenzie (Zondervan Publishing House, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling (800) 727-3480.



The first rickshaw was invented in 1869 by an American Baptist minister, Jonathan Scoble, to transport his invalid wife about the streets of Yokohama, Japan.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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DG QG QNC EXQ, QNGH MPHDEKF; AGXMFVCK  
NCK BETM, EXF JC BVMC:

UKGRCKJM MVW: MVW

This week's clue: M equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One: Five.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 1-18  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

January 18, 1996